

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-116. (Cancelled)

117. (New) A method of detecting HIV-2 retrovirus nucleic acid in a biological sample, said method comprising:

a) contacting said sample with an HIV-2 specific probe under hybridization conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer, 0.1% SDS, wherein said probe comprises an HIV-2 nucleic acid molecule, which hybridizes to HIV-2<sub>ROD</sub> genomic DNA deposited as CNCM I-352 under nonstringent conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer and 0.1% SDS;

wherein the probe comprises an HIV-2 nucleic acid molecule obtained from nucleotides 1-380 of the U3/R region of HIV-2, nucleotides 1-1566 of the *gag* gene of HIV-2, nucleotides 1114-1524 of the *gag* gene, nucleotides 1-405 of the *gag* gene, nucleotides 406-1155 of the *gag* gene, or nucleotides 1-2673 of the *env* gene of HIV-2 or a fragment thereof;

- b) washing the resulting hybrid; and
- c) detecting said hybrid.

118. (New) A method of producing an HIV-2 specific hybridization probe for HIV-2 retrovirus nucleic acid, said method comprising:

a) providing a nucleic acid insert, which hybridizes to HIV-2<sub>ROD</sub> genomic DNA deposited as CNCM I-352 under hybridization conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer, 0.1 % SDS,

wherein the insert comprises an HIV-2 nucleic acid molecule obtained from nucleotides 1-380 of the U3/R region of HIV-2, nucleotides 1-1566 of the gag gene of HIV-2, nucleotides 1114-1524 of the gag gene, nucleotides 1-405 of the gag gene, nucleotides 406-1155 of the gag gene, or nucleotides 1-2673 of the env gene of HIV-2 or a fragment thereof;

b) introducing the insert into a vector;

c) introducing said vector into a competent cellular host;

d) culturing the cellular host; and

e) recovering the DNA recombinants.

119. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the washing of the resulting hybrid occurs under conditions of 50°C in an aqueous solution comprising 2X SSC buffer and 0.1% SDS.

120. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the insert hybridizes to HIV-2<sub>ROD</sub> genomic DNA deposited as CNCM I-352 under hybridization conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer, 0.1% SDS and after washing the resulting hybrid under conditions of 50°C in an aqueous solution comprising 2X SSC buffer and 0.1% SDS.

121. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe is obtained from the following sequence:

GTGGAAGGCG AGACTGAAAG CAAGAGGAAT ACCATTTAGT TAAAGGACAG

GAACAGCTAT ACTTGGTCAG GGCAGGAAGT AACTAACAGA AACAGCTGAG  
ACTGCAGGGA CTTTCCAGAA GGGGCTGTAA CCAAGGGAGG GACATGGGAG  
GAGCTGGTGG GGAACGCCTC ATATTCTCTG TATAATATAC CCGCTGCTTG  
CATTGTACTT CAGTCGCTCT GC GGAGAGGC TGGCAGATTG AGCCCTGGAG  
GATCTCTCCA GCACTAGACG GATGAGCCTG GGTGCCCTGC TAGACTCTCA  
CCAGCACTTG GCCGGTGCTG GCAGACGGCC CCACGCTTGC CTGCTTAAAA  
ACCTTCCTTA ATAAAGCTGC AGTAGAAGCA.

122. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Met Gly Ala Arg Asn Ser Val Leu Arg Gly Lys Lys Ala Asp Glu Leu  
Glu Arg Ile Arg Leu Arg Pro Gly Gly Lys Lys Tyr Arg Leu Lys  
His Ile Val Trp Ala Ala Asn Lys Leu Asp Arg Phe Gly Leu Ala Glu  
Ser Leu Leu Glu Ser Lys Glu Gly Cys Gln Lys Ile Leu Thr Val Leu  
Asp Pro Met Val Pro Thr Gly Ser Glu Asn Leu Lys Ser Leu Phe Asn  
Thr Val Cys Val Ile Trp Cys Ile His Ala Glu Glu Lys Val Lys Asp  
Thr Glu Gly Ala Lys Gln Ile Val Arg Arg His Leu Val Ala Glu Thr  
Gly Thr Ala Glu Lys Met Pro Ser Thr Ser Arg Pro Thr Ala Pro Ser  
Ser Glu Lys Gly Gly Asn Tyr Pro Val Gln His Val Gly Gly Asn Tyr  
Thr His Ile Pro Leu Ser Pro Arg Thr Leu Asn Ala Trp Val Lys Leu  
Val Val Glu Lys Phe Gly Ala Glu Val Val Pro Gly Phe Gln Ala  
Leu Ser Glu Gly Cys Thr Pro Tyr Asp Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Asn Cys  
Val Gly Asp His Gln Ala Ala Met Gln Ile Ile Arg Glu Ile Ile Asn  
Glu Glu Ala Ala Glu Trp Asp Val Gln His Pro Ile Pro Gly Pro Leu  
Pro Ala Gly Gln Leu Arg Glu Pro Arg Gly Ser Asp Ile Ala Gly Thr  
Thr Ser Thr Val Glu Glu Gln Ile Gln Trp Met Phe Arg Pro Gln Asn  
Pro Val Pro Val Gly Asn Ile Tyr Arg Arg Trp Ile Gln Ile Gly Leu  
Gln Lys Cys Val Arg Met Tyr Asn Pro Thr Asn Ile Leu Asp Ile Lys  
Gln Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe Gln Ser Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys  
Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Gln Thr Asp Pro Ala Val Lys Asn Trp Met Thr  
Gln Thr Leu Leu Val Gln Asn Ala Asn Pro Asp Cys Lys Leu Val Leu  
Lys Gly Leu Gly Met Asn Pro Thr Leu Glu Met Leu Thr Ala Cys  
Gln Gly Val Gly Pro Gly Gln Lys Ala Arg Leu Met Ala Glu Ala  
Leu Lys Glu Val Ile Gly Pro Ala Pro Ile Pro Phe Ala Ala Ala Gln  
Gln Arg Lys Ala Phe Lys Cys Trp Asn Cys Gly Lys Glu Gly His Ser  
Ala Arg Gln Cys Arg Ala Pro Arg Arg Gln Gly Cys Trp Lys Cys Gly  
Lys Pro Gly His Ile Met Thr Asn Cys Pro Asp Arg Gln Ala Gly Phe  
Leu Gly Leu Gly Pro Trp Gly Lys Lys Pro Arg Asn Phe Pro Val Ala  
Gln Val Pro Gln Gly Leu Thr Pro Thr Ala Pro Pro Val Asp Pro Ala  
Val Asp Leu Leu Glu Lys Tyr Met Gln Gln Gly Lys Arg Gln Arg Glu  
Gln Arg Glu Arg Pro Tyr Lys Glu Val Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu His Leu  
Glu Gln Gly Glu Thr Pro Tyr Arg Glu Pro Pro Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu  
His Leu Asn Ser Leu Phe Gly Lys Asp Gln.

123. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Arg Lys Ala Phe Lys Cys Trp Asn Cys Gly Lys Glu Gly His Ser Ala Arg Gln Cys Arg Ala Pro Arg Arg Gln Gly Cys Trp Lys Cys Gly Lys Pro Gly His Ile Met Thr Asn Cys Pro Asp Arg Gln Ala Gly Phe Leu Gly Leu Gly Pro Trp Gly Lys Lys Pro Arg Asn Phe Pro Val Ala Gln Val Pro Gln Gly Leu Thr Pro Thr Ala Pro Pro Val Asp Pro Ala Val Asp Leu Leu Glu Lys Tyr Met Gln Gln Gly Lys Arg Gln Arg Glu Gln Arg Glu Arg Pro Tyr Lys Glu Val Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu His Leu Glu Gln Gly Glu Thr Pro Tyr Arg Glu Pro Pro Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu His Leu Asn Ser Leu Phe Gly Lys Asp Gln.

124. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Met Gly Ala Arg Asn Ser Val Leu Arg Gly Lys Ala Asp Glu Leu Glu Arg Ile Arg Leu Arg Pro Gly Gly Lys Lys Tyr Arg Leu Lys His Ile Val Trp Ala Ala Asn Lys Leu Asp Arg Phe Gly Leu Ala Glu Ser Leu Leu Glu Ser Lys Glu Gly Cys Gln Lys Ile Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Pro Met Val Pro Thr Gly Ser Glu Asn Leu Lys Ser Leu Phe Asn Thr Val Cys Val Ile Trp Cys Ile His Ala Glu Glu Lys Val Lys Asp Thr Glu Gly Ala Lys Gln Ile Val Arg Arg His Leu Val Ala Glu Thr Gly Thr Ala Glu Lys Met Pro Ser Thr Ser Arg Pro Thr Ala Pro Ser Ser Glu Lys Gly Asn Tyr.

125. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Pro Val Gln His Val Gly Gly Asn Tyr Thr His Ile Pro Leu Ser Pro Arg Thr Leu Asn Ala Trp Val Lys Leu Val Glu Glu Lys Lys Phe Gly Ala Glu Val Val Pro Gly Phe Gln Ala Leu Ser Glu Gly Cys Thr Pro Tyr Asp Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Asn Cys Val Gly Asp His Gln Ala Ala Met Gln Ile Ile Arg Glu Ile Ile Asn Glu Glu Ala Ala Glu Trp Asp Val Gln His Pro Ile Pro Gly Pro Leu Pro Ala Gly Gln Leu Arg Glu Pro Arg Gly Ser Asp Ile Ala Gly Thr Thr Ser Thr Val Glu Glu Gln Ile Gln Trp Met Phe Arg Pro Gln Asn Pro Val Pro Val Gly Asn Ile Tyr Arg Arg Trp Ile Gln Ile Gly Leu Gln Lys Cys Val Arg Met Tyr Asn Pro Thr Asn Ile Leu Asp Ile Lys Gln Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe Gln Ser Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Gln Thr Asp Pro Ala Val Lys Asn Trp Met Thr Gln Thr Leu Leu Val Gln Asn Ala Asn Pro Asp Cys Lys Leu Val Leu Lys Gly Leu Gly Met Asn Pro Thr Leu Glu Glu Met Leu Thr Ala Cys Gln Gly Val Gly Gly Pro Gly Gln Lys Ala Arg Leu Met Ala Glu Ala Leu Lys Glu Val Ile Gly Pro

Ala Pro Ile Pro Phe Ala Ala Ala Gln Gln.

126. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Met Met Asn Gln Leu Leu Ile Ala Ile Leu Leu Ala Ser Ala Cys Leu Val Tyr Cys Thr Gln Tyr Val Thr Val Phe Tyr Gly Val Pro Thr Trp Lys Asn Ala Thr Ile Pro Leu Phe Cys Ala Thr Arg Asn Arg Asp Thr Trp Gly Thr Ile Gln Cys Leu Pro Asp Asn Asp Asp Tyr Gln Glu Ile Thr Leu Asn Val Thr Glu Ala Phe Asp Ala Trp Asn Asn Thr Val Thr Glu Gln Ala Ile Glu Asp Val Trp His Leu Phe Glu Thr Ser Ile Lys Pro Cys Val Lys Leu Thr Pro Leu Cys Val Ala Met Lys Cys Ser Ser Thr Glu Ser Ser Thr Gly Asn Asn Thr Thr Ser Lys Ser Thr Ser Thr Thr Thr Pro Thr Asp Gln Glu Gln Glu Ile Ser Glu Asp Thr Pro Cys Ala Arg Ala Asp Asn Cys Ser Gly Leu Gly Glu Glu Thr Ile Asn Cys Gln Phe Asn Met Thr Gly leu Glu Arg Asp Lys Lys Gln Tyr Asn Glu Thr Trp Tyr Ser Lys Asp Val Val Cys Glu Thr Asn Asn Ser Thr Asn Gln Thr Gln Cys Tyr Met Asn His Cys Asn Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Glu Ser Cys Asp Lys His Tyr Trp Asp Ala Ile Arg Phe Arg Tyr Cys Ala Pro Pro Gly Tyr Ala Leu Leu Arg Cys Asn Asp Thr Asn Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ala Pro Asn Cys Ser Lys Val Val Ala Ser Thr Cys Thr Arg Met Met Glu Thr Gln Thr Ser Thr Trp Phe Gly Phe Asn Gly Thr Arg Ala Glu Asn Arg Thr Tyr Ile Tyr Trp His Gly Arg Asp Asn Arg Thr Ile Ile Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Asn Leu Ser Leu His Cys Lys Arg Pro Gly Asn Lys Thr Val Lys Gln Ile Met Leu Met Ser Gly His Val Phe His Ser His Tyr Gln Pro Ile Asn Lys Arg Pro Arg Gln Ala Trp Cys Trp Phe Lys Gly Lys Trp Lys Asp Ala Met Gln Glu Val Lys Thr Leu Ala Lys His Pro Arg Tyr Arg Gly Thr Asn Asp Thr Arg Asn Ile Ser Phe Ala Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Ser Asp Pro Glu Val Ala Tyr Met Trp Thr Asn Cys Arg Gly Glu Phe Leu Tyr Cys Asn Met Thr Trp Phe Leu Asn Trp Ile Glu Asn Lys Thr His Arg Asn Tyr Ala Pro Cys His Ile Lys Gln Ile Ile Asn Thr Trp His Lys Val Gly Arg Asn Val Tyr Leu Pro Pro Arg Glu Gly Glu Leu Ser Cys Asn Ser Thr Val Thr Ser Ile Ile Ala Asn Ile Asp Trp Gln Asn Asn Gln Thr Asn Ile Thr Phe Ser Ala Glu Val Ala Glu Leu Tyr Arg Leu Glu Leu Gly Asp Tyr Lys Leu Val Glu Ile Thr Pro Ile Gly Phe Ala Pro Thr Lys Glu Lys Arg Tyr Ser Ser Ala His Gly Arg His Thr Arg Gly Val Phe Val Leu Gly Phe Leu Ala Thr Ala Gly Ser Ala Met Gly Ala Arg Ala Ser Leu Thr Val Ser Ala Gln Ser Arg Thr Leu Leu Ala Gly Ile Val Gln Gln Gln Gln Leu Leu Asp Val Val Lys Arg Gln Gln Glu Leu Leu Arg Leu Thr Val Trp Gly Thr Lys Asn Leu Gln Ala Arg Val Thr Ala Ile Glu Lys Tyr Leu Gln Asp Gln Ala Arg Leu Asn Ser Trp Gly Cys Ala Phe Arg Gln Val Cys His Thr Thr Val Pro Trp Val Asn Asp Ser Leu Ala Pro Asp Trp Asp Asn Met Thr Trp Gln Glu Trp Glu Lys Gln Val Arg Tyr Leu Glu Ala Asn Ile Ser Lys Ser Leu Glu Gln Ala Gln Ile Gln Glu Lys Asn Met Tyr Glu Leu Gln

Lys Leu Asn Ser Trp Asp Ile Phe Gly Asn Trp Phe Asp Leu Thr Ser  
Trp Val Lys Tyr Ile Gln Tyr Gly Val Leu Ile Ile Val Ala Val Ile  
Ala Leu Arg Ile Val Ile Tyr Val Val Gln Met Leu Ser Arg Leu Arg  
Lys Gly Tyr Arg Pro Val Phe Ser Ser Pro Pro Gly Tyr Ile Gln Gln  
Ile His Ile His Lys Asp Arg Gly Gln Pro Ala Asn Glu Glu Thr Glu  
Glu Asp Gly Gly Ser Asn Gly Gly Asp Arg Tyr Trp Pro Trp Pro Ile  
Ala Tyr Ile His Phe Leu Ile Arg Gln Leu Ile Arg Leu Leu Thr Arg  
Leu Tyr Ser Ile Cys Arg Asp Leu Leu Ser Arg Ser Phe Leu Thr Leu  
Gln Leu Ile Tyr Gln Asn Leu Arg Asp Trp Leu Arg Leu Arg Thr Ala  
Phe Leu Gln Tyr Gly Cys Glu Trp Ile Gln Glu Ala Phe Gln Ala Ala  
Ala Arg Ala Thr Arg Glu Thr Leu Ala Gly Ala Cys Arg Gly Leu Trp  
Arg Val Leu Glu Arg Ile Gly Arg Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Pro Arg Arg  
Ile Arg Gln Gly Ala Glu Ile Ala Leu Leu \*\*\* Gly Thr Ala Val Ser  
Ala Gly Arg Leu Tyr Glu Tyr Ser Met Glu Gly Pro Ser Ser Arg Lys  
Gly Glu Lys Phe Val Gln Ala Thr Lys Tyr Gly,

wherein \*\*\* indicates a stop codon.

127. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 or 118, wherein said probe comprises a cDNA or a fragment thereof.